LA Herald-Examiner Jan. 31, '78

HOT STUFF

Ruby Lives, Comrade Oswald?

Is **Jack Ruby** still alive? Was **Lee Harvey Oswald** an agent of the Russian KGB: Will the Reader's Digest get its $500,000 worth?

All these and other questions will begin to be answered next month, when the March issue of the Digest hits the stands. In it will be the first installment of a new book by respected investigative journalist **Edward Jay Epstein**, author of studies on the Warren Commission and television news. Epstein's new book — "Legend: The Secret Life of Lee Harvey Oswald" — should raise more than a few eyebrows, if advance reports are correct.

Epstein, who is said to have spent a half-million dollars of Digest money in the course of his research and who travelled to Mexico to meet with former KGB agents, has come up with the surprising theory that Oswald was trained as a CIA agent, then posed as a double agent for the Russians.

When Oswald shot President Kennedy in Dallas (and Epstein's reasons for this act haven't yet leaked out), the new book has the CIA and the KGB conspiring to get rid of him. Their instrument? None other than Jack Ruby — who was persuaded to do the deed when the CIA promised it would help him simulate cancer, then death, and smuggle him to safe harbor.

If these speculations by a hitherto serious journalist strike you as farfetched, consider another new book — this one written by a London barrister named **Michael Eddowes**. "The Oswald File" also supplies dates, documents and places which seem to connect Oswald in more than just a casual way with the KGB.

What both books have in common, aside from the Oswald-KGB connection, are strong statements about the role of the Warren Commission and the Justice Department in playing down any possibility of Russian involvement . . .

Lee Harvey Oswald